Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

------070446Z 043727 /12 R 061005Z MAY 77

R 061005Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837
INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 9810

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, TH, VN

SUBJ: THAI CONCERNS RE FRENCH-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

- 1. FRENCH EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS OF LATE OF RENEWED THAI CONCERN OVER QUESTION OF AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FRENCH ARE PLANNING TO PROVIDE VIET-NAM, ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBOFFS. MOST RECENT OCCASION WAS ON MAY 4 WHEN FRENCH EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA EUROPEAN DIVISION CHIEF. RATHER THAN ASKING THE LATTER QUESTIONS, THE FRENCH DIPLOMAT FOUND THE THAI ARMED WITH A NUMBER OF HIS OWN, TURNING A ROUTINE 15-MINUTE MEETING INTO ONE LAST 90 MINUTES. BESIDES INTERROGATING HIM IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL CONCERNING ACHIEVEMENTS OF SRV PRIMIN PHAM VAN DONG'S RECENT VISIT TO PARIS, THE THAI OFFICIAL ALSO INQUIRED KNOWLEDGEABLY ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF FRANCE GOING COMMUNIST AND ABOUT FRANCE'S INDIAN OCEAN POLICY.
- 2. WITH RESPECT TO VIET-NAM, THE THAI OFFICIAL MADE THE POINT THAT THE RTG IS CONCERNED BOTH ABOUT THE LEVEL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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FRENCH AID TO VIET-NAM AS WELL AS THE EXTENT TO WHICH FRANCE MAY BE EMBRACING THAT COUNTRY OVERALL MORE THAN IT IS DOING THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE THAI ALSO ASKED THE FRENCH TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES IF AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY ARISES TO CONVEY TO THE SRV THAILAND'S FRIENDLY INTENTIONS TOWARD THAT COUNTRY.

3. SAME FRENCH EMBOFF, WHILE WAITING FOR HIS APPOINTMENT, ENCOUNTERED AN MFA OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA WHO TOLD HIM THAT, AS RESULT OF MEETINGS WITH LAO AND VIENTNAMESE DURING ESCAP PLENARY, RELATIONS WITH LAO ARE NOW IMPROVED TO SUFFICIENT DEGREE WHERE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THAI-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO09810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770160-0854

Format: TEL From: BANGKOK Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770587/aaaacxbo.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: aacb8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2621595 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: THAI CONCERNS RE FRENCH-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, FR, TH, VN

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aacb8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009